



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION

Financial Aid | Degree-Granting Approvals | Closed School Transcripts | Research/Studies | Veterans State Approvals | Career School Licensing

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2006

A regular meeting of the Postsecondary Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2006. The following members were present:

Stephen Reno, Chair
George Hagerty, Vice Chair
Stanley Colla
Michael Day
Father Jonathan DeFelice
William Farrell
Mary Ellen Fleeger
Helen Giles-Gee
Lucille Jordan
Paul LeBlanc
David Mahoney
Ronald Murro
William Nevous
J. Bonnie Newman
Eli Rivera
William Simonton
Sara Jayne Steen
Lyonel Tracy

The following persons also attended: Mihaela Sabin, Director, Computer Science Program, Rivier College, Carolyn Bellisio, Director of Training, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, Lou Chikushev, Chair, Computer Science Department, representing Boston University, Metropolitan College; Richard Gustafson, President Emeritus, Southern New Hampshire University, Judith Evans, Assistant Director, N.H. Board of Nursing, Ann Marie Bularzik, V.P., Acute Care, Exeter Hospital, representing Case Western Reserve University; Byron Petrakis, Dean, Hetty Startup, Executive Director/Assistant to the President, representing Chester College of New England; Janice Bellack, V.P., Academic Affairs, representing the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Peter Koch, former President of McIntosh College; Stephen Appleby, President, New Horizons Computer Learning Center; Charles Mitsakos, representing

Rivier College; Mary Jo Greco, Chair, Andy Vignone, Regional V.P. Mark McGloin, representing WyoTech; James Craiglow, President Emeritus/Chancellor Emeritus, Antioch University New England, representing Chester College of New England and Rivier College; Kathryn Dodge, Executive Director, Anne Hoffler, Executive Assistant, Lynn West, Administrator of Career School Licensing, Kimberly Kenneally, Program Assistant, Larry Elbroch, Administrator of Veterans State Approvals, Judith Knapp, Coordinator of Financial Aid/Research & Studies, Catherine Yeager, Transcriptionist.

- 1) Chair Reno welcomed new Commissioners and asked those present to introduce themselves.
- 2) On the motion of Fr. Jonathan, seconded by Mr. Simonton, the members accepted the minutes of September 14, 2006, with an amendment to remove the double entry of Mr. Nevius' name from those present. The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) Mr. Hagerty moved, seconded by Mr. Rivera, to accept the following Annual/Progress/Other Reports:
 - a. Hesser College – Approval to accept the Annual Report for the Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies, the Associate of Science in Psychology and the Bachelor of Science in Psychology.
 - b. St. Joseph School of Nursing – Approval to accept the Progress Report for the Associate of Science in Nursing.

The motion passed without dissent.

- 4) Stan Colla, Chair, reported on behalf of Boston University, Metropolitan College Evaluation Committee. Boston University, Metropolitan College had requested approval to continue to operate in New Hampshire and offer the Master of Science in Computer Science to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company employees. The Evaluation Committee also included Mihaela Sabin, Director, Computer Science Program, Rivier College and Executive Director Dodge. The site visit was held on October 11, 2006 at the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in Portsmouth. The Evaluation Committee found the program and delivery was unique and mutually beneficial with other existing programs in the state. All Commission standards were met and the Evaluation Committee recommended the Commission grant approval to Boston University, Metropolitan College to continue to operate in New Hampshire and offer the Master of Science in Computer Science degree program exclusively to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company employees for five years, or until June 30, 2011, with a site visit for renewal purposes to be scheduled in the spring of 2011, with the following conditions attached to this approval:
 - a. An annual report be provided to the Commission office outlining the status of enrollments, and any changes in faculty, curriculum or program, and facilities by December 31 of each year (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010).

- b. If Boston University, Metropolitan College would like to extend its approval, an evaluation plan (in lieu of an annual report) would be due December 31, 2010 and another visit would be scheduled for spring 2011.
- c. A draft “Memorandum of Understanding” between Boston University, Metropolitan College and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company be sent to the Commission office by December 1, 2006, with a final copy as soon as possible in 2007 (and attached to each annual report with any subsequent revisions).
- d. A “teach-out” plan for “enrolled students” sent to the Commission office by December 1, 2006, that would be activated in the event there is a change in the current Boston University, Metropolitan College - Liberty Mutual Insurance Company relationship. [received and found acceptable]

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required report(s) are not received.

Discussion followed. Ms. Giles-Gee requested that recommendation a. be amended to read:

- a. An annual report be provided to the Commission office outlining the status of enrollments, and any changes in faculty, curriculum or program, and facilities by December 31 of each year (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010). This annual report would also include data about the student learning outcomes of the students at the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company compared to those who would be in the program at Boston University, Metropolitan College in Boston, and be due by December 31 of each year (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010).

Ms. Giles-Gee moved, seconded by Ms. Jordan, to amend recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

Mr. Rivera moved, seconded by Mr. Murro, to accept the amended Evaluation Committee recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 5) Chair Reno expressed thanks to those who serve as members, on evaluation committees. It is through the work of people who volunteer that the work of the Commission gets completed.
- 6) Mary Jo Greco, Chair, reported on behalf of the WyoTech Evaluation Committee. WyoTech had requested approval to operate and conduct recruiting in New Hampshire. The Evaluation Committee also included Sidney Barnes, V.P., Academic Affairs, N.H. Community Technical College-Nashua, and Executive Director Dodge. The site visit was held on September 28, 2006 at the N.H. Higher Education Assistance Foundation Conference Center in Concord.

WyoTech is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and offers career oriented education in the automotive diesel and collision/refinishing industries. The school is owned by Titan Schools which, in turn, is owned by Corinthian College, Inc., a publicly traded corporation, which makes it a proprietary school. All Commission standards were met and the Evaluation Committee recommended the Commission grant approval to WyoTech to operate in New Hampshire and grant limited degree approval through June 30, 2012 with the following provisions:

- a. The approval is limited to in-state recruitment of students for the three WyoTech locations at Laramie, Wyoming, Blairsville, Pennsylvania and West Sacramento, California.
- b. The approval is for the following programs only:
 - Chassis Fabrication and High Performance Engines with Automotive Technology
 - Street Rod and Custom Fabrication with Automotive Technology
 - Auto/Diesel Vehicle Technology
 - Automotive Technology with advanced Automotive Diagnostics
 - Automotive Technology and Management Chassis Fabrication and High Performance Engines with Collision/Refinishing Technology
 - Street Rod and Custom Fabrication with Collision Refinishing Technology
 - Collision/Refinishing and Upholstery Technology
 - Collision/Refinishing Technology and Management
 - Diesel Technology
 - Chassis Fabrication and High Performance Engines with Diesel Technology
 - Street Rod and Custom Fabrication with Diesel Technology
 - Advanced Diesel Technology
 - Diesel/Auto Vehicle Technology
 - Diesel Technology and Management
 - Applied Service Management Online
- c. WyoTech would provide the Commission with an annual report, due December 31 of each year (beginning in 2007), on the progress of:
 - Programs and curricula
 - Enrollment by campus with a breakdown of New Hampshire students by program.
 - Updates on facility and locations (if there are any changes).
 - Updates to Declaration of Public Action.
- d. If WyoTech would like to extend its approval, an evaluation plan (in lieu of an annual report) would be due December 31, 2011 and another visit would be scheduled for spring 2012.

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required report(s) are not received.

Mr. Murro moved, seconded by Mr. Colla, to accept committee recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 7) Richard Gustafson, Chair, reported on behalf of Case Western Reserve University, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Evaluation Committee. Case Western Reserve University, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, had requested approval to operate in New Hampshire and offer four courses toward the Doctor of Nursing Practice at Exeter Hospital. The Evaluation Committee also included Judith Evans, Assistant Director, N.H. Board of Nursing, and Executive Director Dodge. The site visit was held on November 10, 2006 at the Exeter Hospital. Case Western Reserve University is located in Cleveland, Ohio and accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, and approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing. Four courses toward a Doctor of Nursing would be offered at Exeter Hospital, but other course work and project work will be completed at the campus in Cleveland. There are no comparable programs offered in New Hampshire by private or public institutions and the Evaluation Committee was impressed with the work and pleased to see what will be offered in New Hampshire, given the shortages of nurses and faculty to teach in nursing programs.

All Commission standards were met and the Evaluation Committee recommended the Commission grant limited degree approval to Case Western Reserve University's Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing limited degree approval to offer DNP required core courses and related courses as part of its Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program at the Exeter Hospital site through June 30, 2013. Annual reports would be due beginning on December 31, 2007, which would provide information about cohort enrollment, cohort retention, courses offered, course enrollments, graduates and any plans for the initiation of additional cohorts. The December 31, 2012 annual report would be either the final report for the Exeter site, or an Evaluation Plan requesting continued approval. A request for continued approval would necessitate a Commission site visit in the spring of 2013. This approval would expire at the end of any calendar year for which a required report is not received.

Mr. Simonton moved, seconded by Mr. Nevius, to accept committee recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 8) Ms. Fleeger, Chair, reported on behalf of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Evaluation Committee. The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences had requested approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Ms. Fleeger and Executive Director Dodge joined the N.H. Board of Nursing visiting team at the Manchester campus on November 8, 2006. The program is on an approval track by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education at the Worcester and Boston sites; Manchester campus will be considered an additional site. All Commission standards were met and it was recommended that the Commission grant approval to the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to offer the post baccalaureate Bachelor of Science in Nursing through June 30, 2009, with the following conditions:
- a. By May 1, 2007, receipt of approval letter from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

- b. By October 1, 2007, receipt of NCLEX-RN scores for the first graduating class.
- c. By August 31, 2008, receipt of annual report submitted to the NH Board of Nursing.

The approval through June of 2009 was based on continuing approval from the N.H. Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. If any of the reports are not acceptable, they will be brought to the attention of the Commission at its next scheduled meeting.

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required report(s) are not received.

Mr. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Ms. Newman, to accept committee recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 9) James Craiglow, Chair, reported on behalf of Chester College of New England Evaluation Committee. Chester College of New England had requested approval to offer the Master of Arts in Socially Responsible Media. The Evaluation Committee also included Curtis Smith, V.P., Academic Affairs, Southern New Hampshire University, Geoff Poister, Professor of Film and Television at Boston University, and Executive Director Dodge. The program is clearly a unique program that will appeal to a certain specialized audience. Its strength is bolstered by the history, the expertise, and the equipment that is provided by Visionaries Institute International, long a pioneering and award winning documentary film group.

All Commission standards were met and the Evaluation Committee recommended the Commission grant approval to Chester College of New England to offer the Master of Arts in Socially Responsible Media through June 30, 2010, with an annual report due to the Commission by December 31, 2008.

If there was an interest in extended program approval, an evaluation report would be due to the Commission on December 31, 2009, prior to a site visit in the spring of 2010. The reports should address, but are not limited to the following areas: (1) program enrollment; (2) curriculum development; (3) program assessment processes; (4) Chester College of New England and Visionaries Institute International integration, especially as it relates to faculty governance and structure; (5) changes in faculty (credentials, courses to be taught, etc.) and (6) program impacts.

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required reports are not received.

Discussion followed. Mr. Tracy requested that he be updated on the success of Chester College of New England forming an external advisory board to help with cultural changes and challenges.

Mr. Farrell moved, seconded by Mr. Rivera, to accept committee recommendations. The motion passed with Mr. Nevius abstaining.

- 10) James Craiglow, Chair, reported on behalf of Rivier College Evaluation Committee. Rivier College had requested approval to offer the Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning. The Evaluation Committee also included Steve Ellenwood, Associate Dean for External Funding, Research and Faculty Development and Chair, Curriculum and Teaching in the School of Education, Boston University, Susan Gordon, faculty member of the Fielding Graduate University, and Executive Director Dodge. The program is clearly consistent with Rivier College's mission and the Evaluation Committee was impressed. All Commission standards were met and the Evaluation Committee recommended the Commission grant approval to Rivier College to offer the Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning through June 30, 2014 (to acknowledge the time limit for the completion of the degree requirements).

Annual reports are due to the Commission on December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2009. These reports should address, but are not limited to the following: (1) curriculum; (2) student enrollments and demographics; (3) finances; (4) faculty changes; (5) research approaches; and (6) planning and assessment efforts, including changes related to program evolution.

A site visit will be held in the spring of 2010 to assess the progress of the Ed.D. Program, evaluate the experience of an initial cohort, and view student dissertation work.

Authority would expire at the end of any calendar year for which required reports are not received.

Mr. Murro moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc, to accept committee recommendations. The motion passed, with Fr. Jonathan and Mr. Farrell abstaining.

- 11) Mr. LeBlanc presented the request from Southern New Hampshire University to offer blanket masters' degrees.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding streamlining the process of institutions without losing the integrity of the Commission or violating any precedent that has been set.

Fr. Jonathan moved, seconded by Mr. Murro, to table Southern New Hampshire's request to offer blanket masters' degrees until the March 1, 2007 meeting. The motion passed, with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Executive Director Dodge was directed to establish a team to develop a procedure that would allow the Commission to receive requests from institutions for blanket approvals. Suggested procedures included requesting the institution to provide certain information to a Commission subcommittee. A recommendation would then be brought to the Commission. Further, any additional substantive changes from the institution would be reported on a regular basis to the Commission, including receipt of correspondence from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Draft procedures would be forwarded to Commissioners before the March 1, 2007 meeting.

- 12) Ms. Knapp presented the Workforce Incentive Program – Shortage Areas for 2007-2008.

Fr. Jonathan moved, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, to designate shortage areas for the 2007-2008 academic year as follows:

Nursing, LPN through graduate level

Teaching, as follows:

Special Education

Foreign Language (Classical and Modern)

Mathematics

Physics

Chemistry

Physical Science

General Science

English as a Second Language (optional)

Ms. Knapp was requested to research and possibly include Technology and Criminal Justice for the academic year 2008-2009.

- 13) Ms. West presented a request for career school representation on the Commission. At the December 14, 2006 Commission meeting, it was agreed that Commission staff would develop a recommendation and submit it to the full Commission in advance of the December 14, 2006 meeting. The recommendation was to approve two residents of the state, who are representatives of licensed, private, postsecondary career schools, and appointed by the Governor & Council, to sit on the Commission. Representatives would sit on the Commission as non-voting members pending legislative approval.

Following discussion, Ms. Jordan moved, seconded by Fr. Jonathan, to modify the request to add one career school representative, appointed by the Governor & Council, to sit on the Commission as a non-voting member pending passage of subsequent legislation that would recognize the individual as a full voting member of the Commission. The motion passed without dissent.

- 14) Ms. West presented proposed statute changes for Private Postsecondary Career Schools. On November 7, 2006, the Commission sponsored a public hearing for all licensed career school representatives to participate for the purpose of discussing proposed statute changes. No major issues of dissent were noted. It was recommended that the Commission approve the revised statutes. It was further recommended that a motion be made for the Commission to form an Advisory Group for the purpose of reviewing the proposed career school statute changes, specifically in regards to the areas of the statutes that the Commission would like direct involvement in, e.g., “the executive director” or “the executive director in consultation with the Postsecondary Education Commission.”

Mr. Farrell moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to accept recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 15) Executive Director Dodge presented highlights of her Executive Director Report. These included:
- a. The N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Pos 1000, *Evaluation of In-State and Out-of-State Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions with a Physical Presence, Place of Contact, or Conducting Advising/Mentoring or Instructing in New Hampshire* was formally adopted on October 26, 2006. Members of the Commission were thanked.
 - b. Mr. Hagerty and Executive Director Dodge accompanied the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools to Lebanon College for the initial comprehensive site visit. An official notification about its status is expected in January, 2007.
 - c. John Mims, Evaluation Committee member for Lesley University, and Executive Director Dodge toured the resource room at Conant School in Concord that Lesley University would use to deliver programs. It was determined that a program would be delivered from this quality site.
 - d. Hellenic American University will seek new authority to offer the Associate of Science in Enterprise Network Administration, the Bachelor of Arts in English Language, and a Master of Science in Information Technology.
 - e. The executive director will chair the Governor's P-16 Working Group. This group will work to create a true system of education for N.H. that begins in early childhood, continues through college, and promotes access, success, accountability, and lifelong learning.
 - f. Ms. West was upgraded to a Program Specialist III and is the lead person for Private Postsecondary Career Schools.
 - g. Congressional representatives and the governor were contacted concerning proposed cuts to Veterans State Approvals funding which met with some success. The reduced U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs funding from the current \$19 million to \$13 million for federal fiscal year 2008 and 2009 is still in the legislative bill, but the additional decrease in funding to \$8 million for federal fiscal years 2010 and 2013 has been eliminated.
 - h. At the September 14, 2006 meeting, Nischal Chandra, President of the Universal Media Corporation, asked the Commission what position it would take if another division of the Universal Medical Institute pursued a partnership with the University of Newcastle, Australia or another out-of-country college/university that proposed to offer on-line degrees. The Commission requested the Executive Director Dodge seek a legal opinion from the N.H. Department of Justice and report back to the Commission. A legal opinion was requested from James Kennedy, Esq., N.H. Department of Justice. In his opinion the relationship between Universal Media Corporation and any foreign or otherwise degree-granting institution is a vendor relationship and, therefore, does not fall under the

purview of the Commission. He also stated, “It is fine for a N.H. corporation, not a career school, to broker degree-granting education with any institution, international or otherwise, without Commission involvement as long as the corporation is not issuing any degree. Any educational institution in N.H. that offers a degree program must register with the Commission and meet Pos 1000.”

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.